



Arizona Department of Transportation Building a Quality Arizona Project
www.bqaz.gov

October 7, 2008

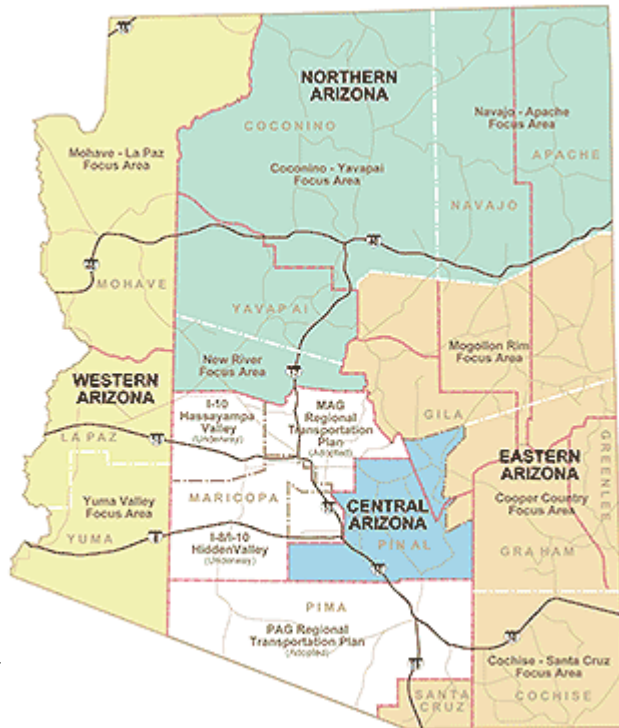
The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is holding a series of workshops throughout the state in November 2008 for the ongoing "bqAZ" or "Building a Quality Arizona" framework planning process. This process began in early 2008 when communities provided their thoughts on future transportation needs. Our team has incorporated that information into possible future scenarios which will be presented for review and comment during the upcoming workshops.

ADOT has partnered with regional transportation planning entities across Arizona, working closely with local jurisdictions and stakeholders, to implement Regional Framework Studies that will feed into a Statewide Transportation Planning Framework. The long-range focus of the studies will identify the State's needs in the 2030-2050 timeframe.

Your input is needed to help shape Arizona into a more desirable home for future generations!

Growth of Transportation Network to Connect Families

Five generations of the Snyder family cover the state of Arizona like they are playing a giant game of "Twister." The most southern arm of the clan live and work in Bisbee, another arm is in Tucson. The hub of the group, Michael and Annette, are in Oracle, with assorted siblings, grannies, aunts, uncles and cousins in Fountain Hills, Phoenix and Peoria... stretching up to New River and finally to Munds Park, just south of Flagstaff. Managing the logistics of a Snyder holiday gathering illuminates the problems of a state where growth threatens to outpace its transportation infrastructure. Two decades ago, Christmas was easy: the group was clustered in Tucson and Phoenix. Today, jobs, affordable housing, and the attraction of a more rural pace have scattered the group over an area larger than Rhode Island and Delaware, with no easy means of connecting the dots...No way for the great great grannies to see their little ones, except on congested highways that are less and less accessible as they enter their nineties.



Arizona Residents Invited to Make History in November



The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is leading a major statewide effort designed to improve this transportation picture for the next generation. In early November, ADOT invites all Arizonans to make history at their fall series of public meetings.

Residents will contribute to the State's ongoing quality of life discussion by joining the 600 participants statewide who expressed their vision of the transportation planning initiative in the spring of 2008. As thoughtful transportation planning is key to so many aspects of the Arizona lifestyle...preserving the natural beauty of our surroundings, creating sustainable economic conditions, and most of all, providing accessible mobility... these public meetings will present transportation scenarios specific to each region for public scrutiny and comment. The regional transportation framework studies are intended to link future land uses, such as employment and shopping centers, with efficient transportation solutions that could include expanded roadways and transit, within demographic/topographic regions of the state, (Northern, Central, Western and Eastern Regions). Similar studies are occurring in the major population areas of Maricopa and Pima Counties.

Building a Quality Arizona – (bqAZ) Statewide Transportation Planning Initiative



In a process known as Building a Quality Arizona (bqAZ), Councils of Governments (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and tribal governments from around the state are working with ADOT to talk about state infrastructure needs. During public meetings held statewide in April, 2008, stakeholders and the public voiced their opinions on transportation issues that will affect Arizona's quality of life in the 2030 and 2050 planning horizon. The complete summary report

from this round of public input is available at: www.bqaz.org.

A number of similar themes emerged from the meetings, regardless of the area of the state where the public meeting was conducted. Some of the common findings are:

Growth Participants agreed that growth across the state is far ahead of the development of transportation infrastructure, and that a system must be developed to get ahead of the growth curve. Regardless of the rate of growth, workshop participants and stakeholders expressed a desire to link transportation planning with land use, business development planning and right of way acquisition for multi-modal transportation. People recognized a recent downturn in the economy has resulted in a slow down in the rate of growth, but they believe it will be short-lived and it provides the state some breathing room to put plans in place.

Environment Protecting wildlife habitats and crossings is key to preserving our unique Arizona lifestyle, and should be accounted for in the long-range plan for major travel corridors.

Roadways Participants in the public meetings, focus groups and stakeholder interviews felt that it is crucial to acquire the right-of-way before roads are needed. There is a concern that planned use of limited resources should be allocated for maintenance as well as construction, and that the development of additional major north-south and east-west routes will be needed.

Planes and Trains Participants indicated the need for improved regional air access and providing good transportation connections to airports. They also supported increasing statewide rail capacity for freight and passenger service.

Transit Options Across the state, participants indicated the need for regional links to major statewide connectors. There is a growing awareness that highways alone will not be sufficient to reduce congestion and improve regional access to major activity centers.

Growing “Boomer” Population = More Diverse Transportation Needs



Arizonans expressed the need for transportation options beyond the “one person-one car” pattern of travel that is second nature in the vast Southwest. “I commute to work in Phoenix from Munds Park every week. With something like “Park and Ride” train or bus between Flagstaff and Phoenix, I could read, grade papers, even do lesson planning. Instead, I face a tedious, tiring, expensive drive, often at a snail’s pace in bumper to bumper conditions,” says Molly Snyder. “I regularly submit building plans in Flagstaff, says husband Glenn Snyder. Scheduled bus routes to Flagstaff with a stop at Munds Park would enable guys like me to do project planning work on the round trip, and would take scores of single-driver commuters off the road every day. We’re very interested in the November public meetings to see what the statewide transportation scenarios look like, as we live and work between two different regions of the State.”

What is a “Scenario” and What Does it Mean to Me?



An ADOT “Scenario” is a “doable” transportation plan designed to incorporate as many of the public’s desires and priorities as deemed feasible by planning and engineering professionals. In November, Arizonans will have the opportunity to review and comment on three possible scenarios for each region...combinations of workable transportation system components that highlight different priorities set out in the public meetings in earlier in the year. For example, if you attend one of the public workshops in the Northern Region you will be able to review three scenarios that address issues of that particular region. Building upon comments heard, these scenarios are focused on the future in an attempt to ensure that Arizona gets ahead of the growth curve. They do not address neighborhood streets or local traffic lights, but focus on “bigger picture” connections – between communities, to employment, to shopping, to schools, and services.

Join us in November:

ADOT and the entire planning coalition are asking for the public's help once again. Leave a legacy of good planning to future generations...attend the public meetings in your area and make a difference in Arizona's future.

The dates for the November workshops are being finalized now. Please watch the homepage at www.bqaz.gov for a full list of dates and locations. A link to November Workshops will be added to the homepage in a matter of days.

